

Meyerholz School  
Cupertino Union School District  
August 2014

Curriculum and Schedule Information  
For CLIP Third Grade

Welcome to the 2014-2015 Meyerholz Back-To-School Night.

Thank you for coming tonight! We have enjoyed meeting your child and look forward to a rewarding academic year. As the year progresses, we hope your child keeps you informed of the many activities happening in the classroom. On a daily basis, we encourage you to ask your child about things that are going on in your child's daily life. Set aside some precious family time for you and your child to discuss and exchange the day's experiences and to keep in touch with your child's well being.

We believe that each child comes to school with a unique set of experiences and understanding of the world around him/her. We are committed to building on the foundation of what a student knows in order to differentiate our instruction. We also believe in raising the expectations of each child. If the challenge is there, a child will extend him/herself to the fullest of his/her potential. We feel that a child needs self-discipline to start refining time management skills in classroom work, guidance in developing work independence, strategies to strengthen academic foundations and opportunities to enhance social skills. A positive approach will be used to make learning as worthwhile and enjoyable as possible for all students. We appreciate your support and hope we can work as partners in your child's education.

The following is a brief description of what will be covered in each subject area as well as some additional information about homework, special activities, and field trips planned. We have also included a few "food for thoughts."

Third Grade Team  
Ms. Chen, Ms. Chiang, and Ms. Yu

## Third Grade Curriculum

**Reading/Language Art:** Students will participate daily in different types of literacy activities: independent reading, partner reading, read-aloud, reading responses and guided reading. Independent reading encourages students to select and read books at their own level. Partner reading allows students to listen and learn from each other. Guided reading will allow children to be instructed in small homogeneous groups with grade level books. The primary text used is the district adopted Houghton Mifflin's Reading California series. In addition, we will also be using supplemental articles to provide students with a broad range of literature and non-fictional text.

**Chinese Language Arts:** Students will continue to enhance their listening comprehension and oral language skills by role-playing real life scenarios, putting on plays based on literature, discussing ideas in small groups, interviewing, and using multi-media resources. For reading, students will read both fiction and nonfiction. We will also emphasize reading fluency, comprehension, and literary response and analysis. The curriculum also includes writer's workshop, poetry citations, author's chair, and puppet shows.

**Writing:** Students will be writing on a daily basis. We will cover three genres of writing: narratives, informational writing, and opinion pieces. Students will learn about the writing process as well as skills needed to become good editors and proofreaders. They will learn about **spelling** rules and patterns as well as **grammar** through writing. They will also work with peers to revise and edit their papers as well as do individual conferencing with the teachers. Students will also be learning how to access their Google drive accounts to type up their work.

**Home-School Journal:** Students will be writing in their home-school journals at the end of the week discussing their time at school. The purpose of this activity to open a two way dialogue between parents and their children. It will also give you a glimpse (on a more personal level) what your child has been learning about, what excites them, what challenged them during the week, and what they're looking forward to. Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to write back to your child on the back of his/her letter. As the assignment comes closer, more information will be given.

**Math:** The Cupertino Union School District is conducting a math textbook pilot during the 2014-2015 school year. The purpose of this textbook pilot is to choose new textbooks that are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Each school site has one or more classrooms participating in the pilot. Ms. Yu will be piloting two different

Common Core aligned textbooks in her classroom, each approximately for eight weeks. Ms. Chen's class will be using the current district adopted Math curriculum – Houghton Mifflin's California Math.

In all of the classes, students will learn to work from the textbook as well as through enrichment activities. Emphasis will be placed on learning and memorizing multiplication and division facts through 12. Students will also develop skills to help them become good problem solvers and critical thinkers. Please visit the website at [www.eduplace.com](http://www.eduplace.com) for supplementary ideas.

**Social Studies:** The curriculum that we will be using is the district adopted Pearson Scotts Foresman. Students will be learning about communities and geography. We will also learn about our national and local governments. Students will also be studying about California Native Americans.

**Science:** This year, we will be covering three topics: Energy and Matter; Structures of Life; Sun, Moon, and Stars. Each unit comes with a kit, which includes an introduction of the subject matter, observations and experiments. Students will collaborate and explore these concepts through hands-on activities.

**Handwriting:** In third grade, students transition from printing to cursive. Students will be introduced to cursive handwriting by learning the strokes.

**Technology:** In third grade, students will learn how to use basic computer programs as well as Google applications to create presentations, reports, and written pieces. They will also be using portable devices (iPads, Chromebook-laptops) for group discussions and presentations.

**Special Classes:**

- Music
- PE
- Western Art
- CLIP Art

**Homework**

- Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday nights.
- English homework will consist mostly of math, 20 minutes of reading, and reading journal/reading log. Sometimes, students will be assigned additional language arts assignments (eg. writing projects, word work).

- Chinese homework will consist of reading aloud Chinese Language Arts texts; 10 - 15 minutes of reading (Chinese books or on-line stories)- both readings are required to be recorded in separated reading logs; and Mei Zhou 美洲華語 workbook and character/phrases practice.
- Additional homework may include unfinished class work, writing assignments, and projects. Homework is due on a daily basis. Although homework is not assigned on Friday and weekends, we strongly encourage students to continue reading their favorite stories or books.
- Homework that is turned in incomplete will be handed back to the student to complete. Incomplete work is not given credit until it is turned in completed. However, missed homework will be made up at recess or at home.
- Homework is due the day after it is assigned, with exception of certain projects as well as assignments specified by the teacher.
- Students are responsible for making sure they have all the materials needed to complete their homework. If students make a habit of turning work in late, it will be reflected on the report card.
- Students are responsible for recording their homework in their agenda notebooks.
- A note is required from the parent if a student is unable to complete his or her homework on any given day.
- Homework is intended to provide further practice taught in class. If your child is struggling with an assignment for more than 30 minutes, please stop the work and provide us with a written explanation as to why the homework was not finished.

### **Assessment / Projects**

- Assessments in language arts, math, social studies, and science occur throughout each unit of study. Report cards will be scored based on a rubric system. Furthermore, we will work as a class on developing study skills and strategies.
- Projects will occur periodically. These will include oral presentations, social studies and science projects, as well as writing assignments. These will be scored using a rubric system.

### **Discipline and Expectations**

The Meyerholz School rules and system of warnings, as started in the School Handbook, will be followed. Additionally, the students also have a set of rules to abide by. Failure to comply with the class' expectations will result in a warning. If the behavior continues, we will meet individually with the student and talk about how we can stop the behavior. Failure to change the behavior will result parents being contacted and a possible office referral and/or parent-student-teacher conference.

### **Meyerholz School-wide Rules and Expectations**

1. Be Safe
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Responsible

We believe strongly in positive recognition, and we plan to use them daily. Our goals are to have students become intrinsically motivated to learn, help others, and wanting to learn and explore new topics on their own. Positive reinforcements that we will use include verbal praises, positive comments, "bulldog bones," free choice, and various other positive perks throughout the year.

### **Attendance / Absences / Leaving Early**

It is important that your child attends school everyday. Students who are absent will make-up missed assignments and turn them in at the end of the week. If your child has a planned absence, please fill out an independent study contract with the school at least 2 weeks prior to the absence. If a student is to be taken out of class early for a doctor/dental or any other appointment, please make sure you go directly to the office to sign them out. Once in the office, the secretaries will contact us, and we will send your child to the office.

\*\*\* Please note: Any planned absences cannot be longer than 10 days. Also this year, **the district requires all students to attend the last day of school in order to maintain their enrollment status at the school of choice for the upcoming year.**

### **Home / School Communication**

- The "Bulldog Bulletin", the weekly school newsletter, will be on-line only. Please visit Meyerholz's homepage for the "Bulldog Bulletin".
- Thursday Folders
  - On Thursdays, important information will be handed out in the Thursday folders. Please read and remove the papers. Please sign the front cover, the Weekly Progress Report, and return the folder on Friday.
- Daily Agenda
  - Students will write down their assignment on a daily basis. Please refer to their agenda books for assignments and due dates.

### **Miscellaneous**

Book Orders:

We will send Scholastic book orders home periodically along with the Thursday Folders. Please place your order on-line or make checks out to the appropriate book order club.

Book orders and checks are due on the designated date (specified by the teacher). Books are expected to arrive three to four weeks after we place the order.

### **Room Environment/Classroom Needs**

- Although we do have a drinking fountain this year, students are allowed to bring water bottles into the classroom as long as they follow the rules. However, drinks other than water will not be permitted in order to avoid messy spills. They are, however, allowed to have them outside of the classroom.
- A special thanks goes out to all who have donated supplies these first few weeks of school. We really appreciate all your effort in meeting our classroom needs. ☺

### **Parent Volunteers**

- Each classroom needs a room parent, traffic champion, and ABC readers.
- We would also like to recruit parent(s) to help with organizing work and putting flyers in their Thursday folders. This will help maximize learning time for the students so they won't have to use "precious" time to put things in their folders. ☺
- If you would like to volunteer in the classroom or at school, you would first need to attend a parent volunteer orientation (TBA).
- Please note that all parents who would like to volunteer need to have their TB test clearance ready in hand before they are allowed into the classroom (school policy).
- For more information, please check with the front office. They should be able to provide you with all the necessary forms.

### **Study Tips**

- Set up a quiet area for homework.
- Homework should be done at a regular time each day, free from any distractions. Also, try to provide a playtime after school and before the study time.
- Remember that schoolwork is assigned to the child and not you. Please help, but do not give the answers.
- Set a reasonable, routine bedtime.
- Provide a well-balanced diet.
- Practice being responsible with both school-work and home related activities.

Check with the teacher when an assignment, school policy, or classroom policy is not clear. Communication between the school and the parent is very important.

## **Contacting Teachers**

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns at any time.

- You can reach us directly at (408)252-7450 extension **224 for Ms. Yu, ext. 225 for Ms. Chiang, and ext. 226 for Ms. Chen.** Please note that during school hours, our phone calls will go directly to voicemail. We check for messages regularly, so please leave a message.
- You can also send us an email at:  
[Chen\\_tejung@cusdk8.org](mailto:Chen_tejung@cusdk8.org)  
[Chiang\\_li-chin@cusdK8.org](mailto:Chiang_li-chin@cusdK8.org)  
[Yu\\_genevieve@cusd8.org](mailto:Yu_genevieve@cusd8.org)

We not only want the students to progress academically, but we also want them to enjoy themselves and have fun. Being confident about themselves and their work is important for their overall success both *in* and *outside* the classroom. With these thoughts in mind, we look forward to working with you in making this a successful school year.